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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 4 April 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/155 of 20 December 1993, I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation dated 25 March 1995.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 114 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

* A/50/50.

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ANNEX

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation dated 25 March 1995

On 24 March 1995, the Estonian authorities summarily deported Mr. P. Rozhok, a national of the Russian Federation, thereby, in violation of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and of Estonian legislation, depriving him of the possibility of defending his rights. They deliberately acted without even waiting for a court hearing of the accusations made against him. In their haste Mr. P. Rozhok was even "deprived" of something which he did not have - a residence permit, since he had not yet applied for one.

It is absolutely clear that the expulsion from Estonia of a permanent resident within a period of 24 hours, in blatant violation of the generally accepted norms of human rights, is an act of incitement and was inspired by those circles in Estonia which would like to destroy the hopes for a normalization of Russian-Estonian relations which emerged after the recent elections in Estonia. Unfortunately, it cannot be overlooked that it is precisely these circles which still have considerable influence on Tallinn's official conduct in relation to Russians living in Estonia. In the development of the State system of discriminating against and gradually "easing out" non-Estonians which is already in existence here, a dangerous precedent has now been set for forcibly attaining this goal, and this cannot pass without a reaction on Russia's part.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia strongly protests against the gross violation by Estonian officials of the legitimate rights of a Russian national living in Estonia. The question of new cases of human rights violations in the Republic of Estonia will be raised by Russia in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international organizations.

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